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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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FOR FURTHER INFO:
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Norfolk, Virginia – Paul J. McNulty, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia, announced that Donald Edward Robinson, age 51, of Hampton, Virginia, was sentenced in U.S. District Court in Norfolk, Virginia, on Thursday, July 11, 2002, to 121 months for conspiracy to possess with the intent to distribute and distribution of 1000 kilograms or more of marijuana.

On April 11, 2002, Robinson pled guilty to a one-count criminal information charging him with a marijuana conspiracy from May, 2001 through December 4, 2001, and a criminal forfeiture.

On December 4, 2001, during a search of a storage unit leased by Robinson in Newport News, police found several opened wooden crates, insulation, blue barrels with rims covered in what appeared to be axle grease, a crate with a false bottom which contained 6 plastic wrapped bundles of U. S. Currency (later determined to be approximately \$179,655), two electronic scales with marijuana residue on them, approximately 30 black garbage bags each containing several bricks of marijuana, a black gym bag with marijuana in ziplock baggies, and one ziplock baggy containing marijuana.

While Hampton detectives were watching Robinson's business, they saw him get into his Ford Explorer carrying a black trash bag. The detectives followed Robinson and saw him throw the bag from the Explorer. Inside the bag was marijuana and a Cobra M-11 9mm pistol. After attempting to evade the detectives, Robinson stopped his car and fled on foot. As Hampton Police were chasing Robinson, he threw a white envelope over a fence. The recovered envelope had "Letter Perfect" (Robinson's business) on the front and inside was approximately \$5,000 U. S. currency, wrapped in five bundles of \$1,000 each. After Robinson was arrested, Hampton Police found an additional \$1,002 U. S. Currency wrapped in a rubber band and some loose cash in Robinson's front pants pocket.

Between April 30, 2001 and December 4, 2001, Robinson, using at least two aliases, picked up at least five shipments of crates like the ones found in the search of his storage unit in December 2001, which were shipped to a fictitious business address in Chesapeake, Virginia. Robinson then rented trucks to transport the crates from Chesapeake to his business in Newport News, Virginia. Each of the five shipments contained over 300 kilograms of marijuana totaling more than 1,000 kilograms of marijuana.

The investigation was conducted by the Newport News and Hampton Police Departments, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco & Firearms and the Drug Enforcement Administration. Assistant United States Attorney Janet S. Reincke prosecuted the case.